



Montana Office of Public Instruction
Linda McCulloch, Superintendent opi.mt.gov



Graduated Driver Licenses – Novelty or Necessity?

David Huff, Presenter

Vision Safe Drive

Northern Rocky Mountain Region Rural Transportation Safety Conference

Bismarck, ND November 29-30, 2007



Primer on Statistics

WHO IS DOING THE WORK?

The population of the USA is 300 million.

160 million are retired.

That leaves 140 million to do the work.





Primer on Statistics

There are 85 million in school.

Which leaves 55 million to do the work.

Of this there are 35 million employed by the federal government.

Leaving 15 million to do the work.

2.8 million are in the armed forces preoccupied with killing Osama Bin-Laden.

Which leaves 12.2 million to do the work.





Primer on Statistics

Take from that total the 10.8 million people who work for state and city governments.

And that leaves 1.4 million to do the work.

At any given time there are 188, 000 people in hospitals.

Leaving 1,212,000 to do the work.

Now, there are 1,211,998 people in prisons.

That leaves just two people to do the work...You and me.





Primer on Statistics

And there you are,

sitting on your *,**

at your conference, reading jokes.





What Is Graduated Driver Licensing?

- GDL is a way of reducing the risk of learning to drive.
 - Crash risk is highest in the first year of driving
 - Driving is more complex than most realize
 - A skilled musician or athlete can make their task look easy
 - Actually took years of practice and development of sublimated behaviors (habits)





What Is Graduated Driver Licensing?

- It takes time to develop good driving habits
- Young novice drivers don't know what they don't know and they certainly haven't developed good driving habits yet
- GDL is based upon the premise that it take 6 months to a year to subliminate the driving task





What Is Graduated Driver Licensing?

- GDL is a Phased Licensing process that
 - Requires supervised practice driving for an initial period, and
 - Provides for “solo”** driving under reduced risk conditions for a minimum period prior to a full-privilege license
- ** “Solo” driving refers to restrictions on numbers and types of passengers that can accompany an unsupervised teen driver





GDL Impact Upon Crash Reductions

Courtesy of:

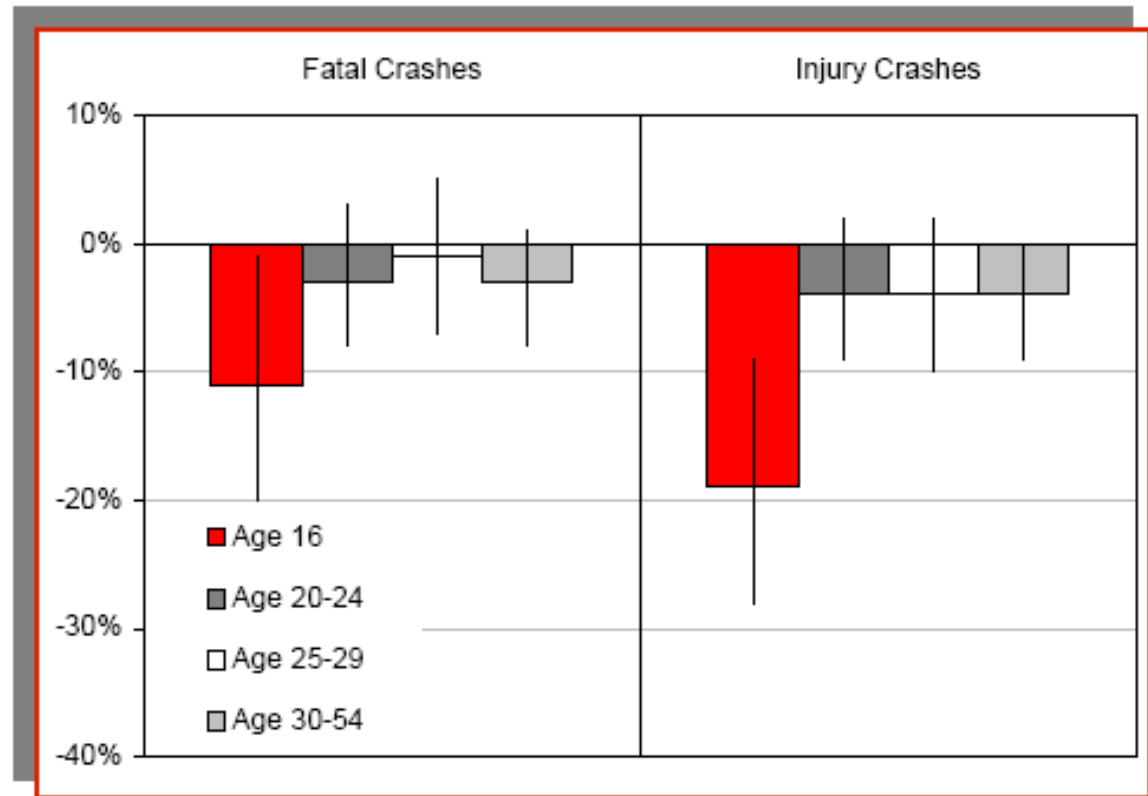


Figure 1. Percentage difference in fatal crash involvement rates and injury crash involvement rates in relation to driver age and presence of a three-stage GDL program. Vertical lines represent 95% confidence intervals.





GDL Impact Upon Crash Reductions

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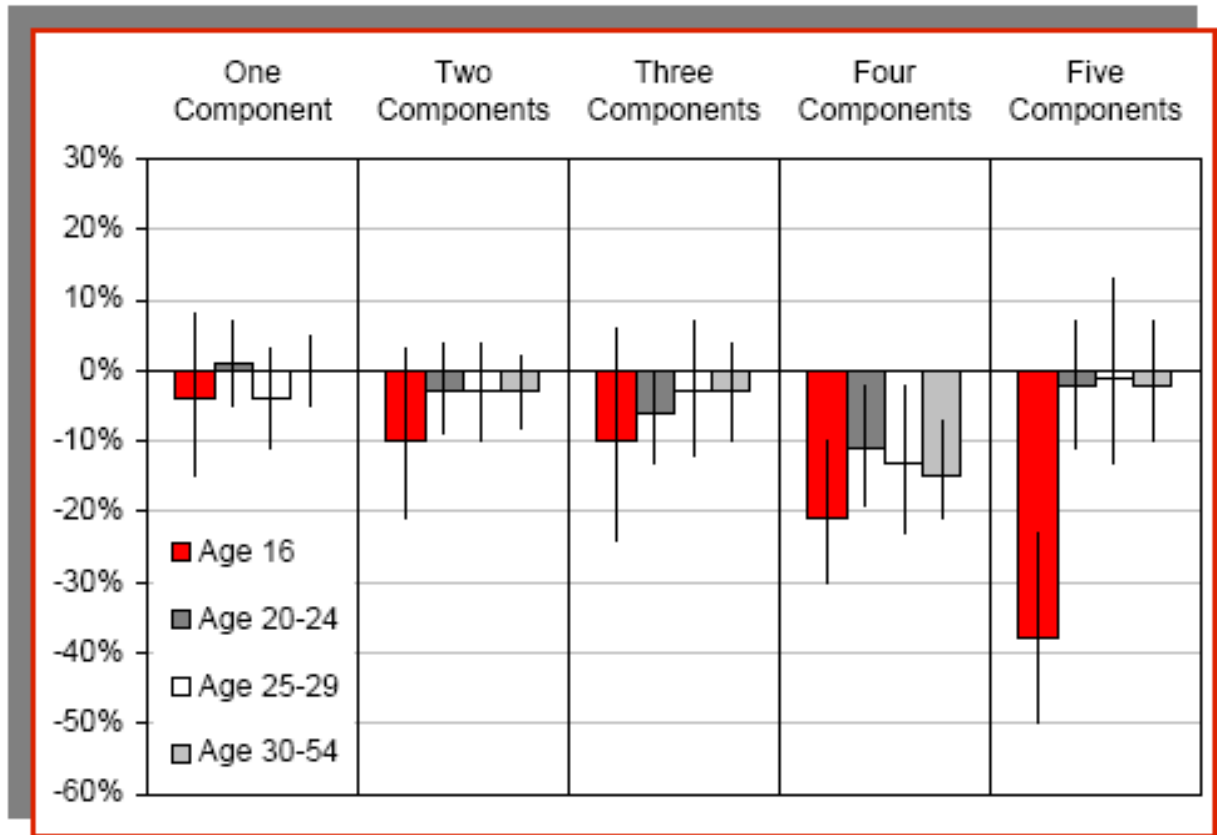


Figure 2: Percentage difference in fatal crash involvement rates in relation to driver age and number of GDL program components. Vertical lines represent 95% confidence intervals.





GDL Impact Upon Crash Reductions

Courtesy of:

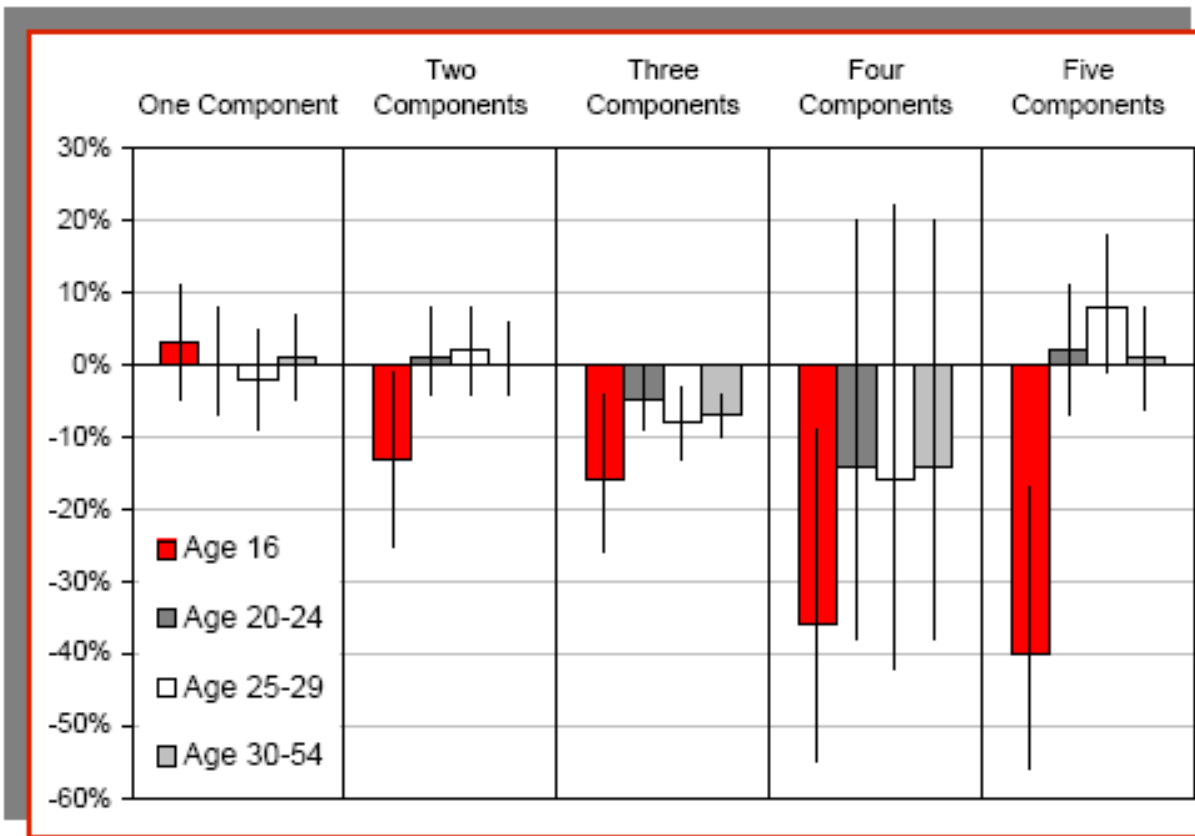


Figure 3: Percentage difference in injury crash involvement rates in relation to driver age and number of GDL program components. Vertical lines represent 95% confidence intervals.





AAA GDL Elements Evaluated

- Minimum Permit age of 16 years
- Minimum Permit holding period of 6 months
- Certified practice for at least 30 hours
- Entry age for restricted license minimum 16.5 years
- Nighttime restricts start by at least 10 pm
- Non-family passengers restricted to 1
- Entry age for full license limited to 17 years





Possible Components of a GDL Law

GDL components

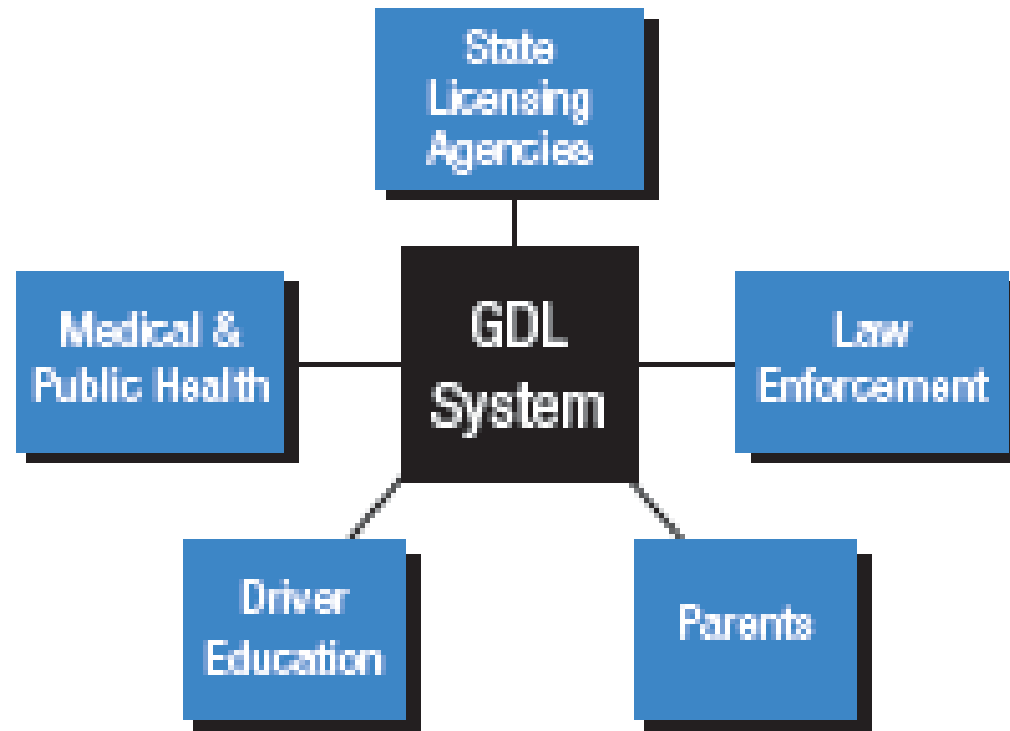
- ◆ Extended learner period ← 1
- ◆ Parent certification requirements
- ◆ Nighttime restrictions ← 3
- ◆ Passenger restrictions ← 2
- ◆ Seat belt use
- ◆ Cell phone restrictions
- ◆ Contingent advancement

Author Alan Williams





Key GDL Influences & Partners



Courtesy NSC





Findings

Discussion: Is GDL Effective?

- YES, GDL is effective
- More studies since 2002, more positive results
- More sophisticated studies, more positive results
- Longer follow-up periods, more positive results
- GDL reduces crashes, fatal and injury crashes, hospitalization rates and charges

Author: Jean Shope





Research Discussion

- ❖ Does Not Control for Exposure
- ❖ Doesn't address the cause of fewer crashes:
 - ❖ Improved driving by teens, or
 - ❖ Fewer teen drivers, or
 - ❖ Both
- ❖ It is generally agreed that fewer 16 year olds are getting a license which accounts for some of the reduction
- ❖ It is generally agreed that more practice is needed
- ❖ It is generally agreed that GDL is good





Rural Considerations

- Most rural and western state families and by extension, communities, rely on teens driving.
- Is reducing teen drivers to obtain crash reductions an acceptable countermeasure?
- Should countermeasures include effective options to retain teen drivers, but to improve their consistency in safe driving.

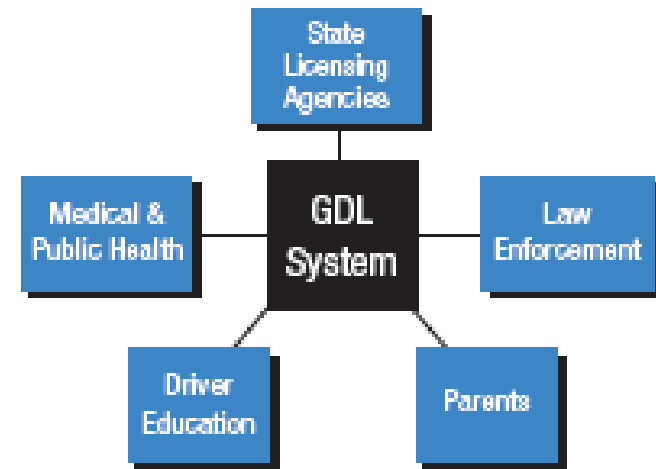




Rural Considerations

Law Enforcement Challenges

- Large geography
- Fewer law enforcement officers on highways
- Politics of enforcement
- Will not be able to meet researchers expectation for enforcement

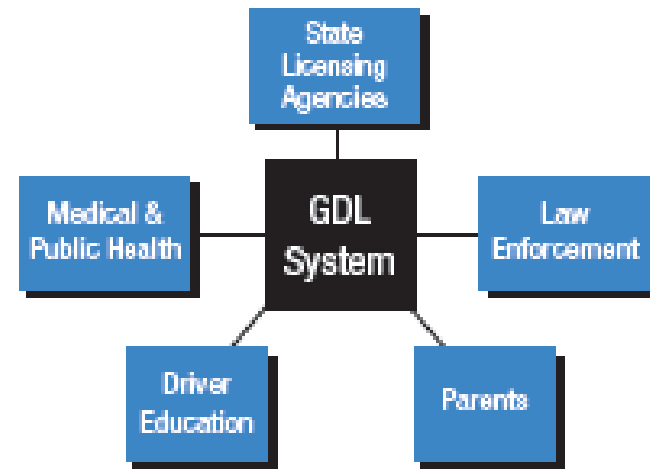




Rural Considerations

Driver Education Challenges

- Many states have a collapsed system that equalizes at the lowest common level – passing driving test which is an inadequate safe-driver-readiness assessment
- Additional information will be provided in afternoon session

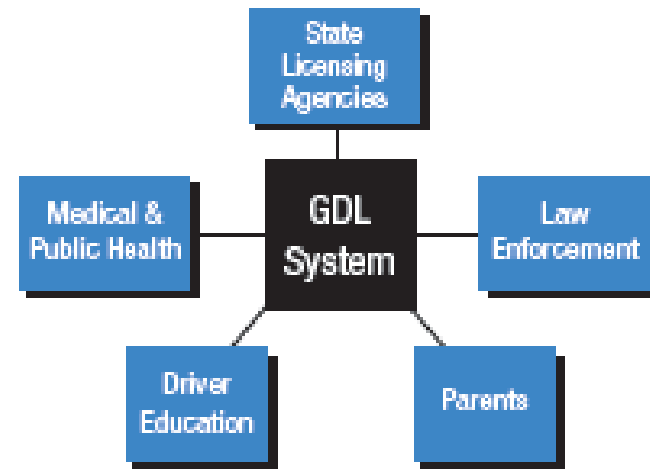




Rural Considerations

Medical & Public Health

- Access to ambulance and emergency services limited
- Many other health challenges related to limited medical services in many communities – become priorities sharing limited resources

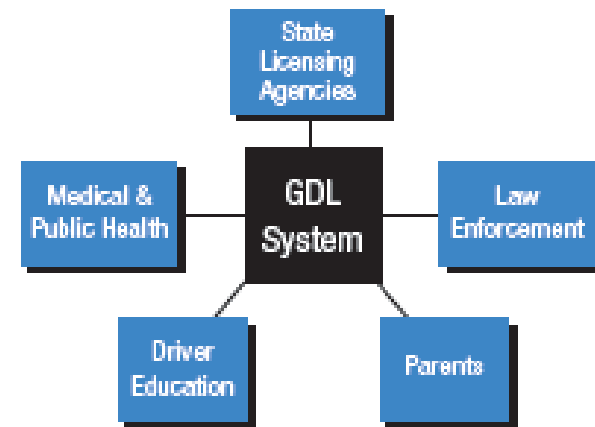




Rural Considerations

🔥 Licensing & Testing

- 🔥 Usually under funded to even provide adequate driver licenses offices in remote communities
- 🔥 Resources to improve license tracking and record keeping is often times very limited if available at all
- 🔥 Other priorities like Homeland Security challenges

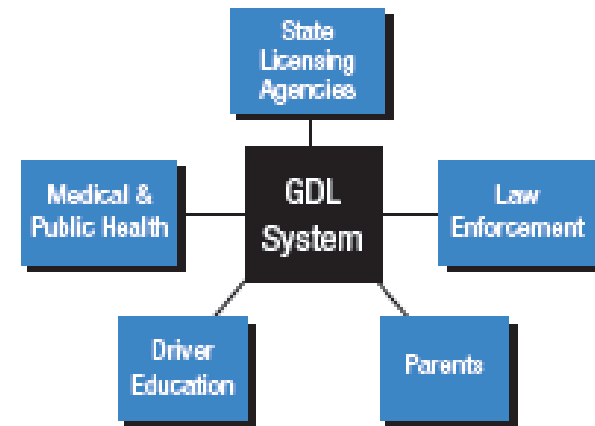




Rural Considerations

Parents are the KEY

- Most parents want what is right for their kids
- Most parents don't understand the risks
- Enforcement works best when it is the parent enforcing
- We need to educate and empower parents to do what they do...nurture, protect, and prepare their offspring





GDL RESOURCES

AAA Foundation

- www.aaafoundation.org

National Safety Council (NSC)

- www.nsc.org/gdl

Insurance Institute of Highway Safety (IIHS)

- www.iihs.org

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

- <http://www.chop.edu/consumer/jsp/division/generic.jsp?id=84822>

National Transportation Safety Board

- <http://www.nts.gov/publictn/2005/RP0501.pdf>

- http://www.nts.gov/Events/symp_driver_ed/symp_driver_ed.htm





Contact Information

THANK YOU

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